

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

DHA-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /077 W

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R 290930Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 044

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 2837

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, TO, AO, NI

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON EYADEMA-MURTALS MEETING

REF: A. LOME 2792

1. INFORMATION HERE INDICATES THAT DEC 22 MEETING BETWEEN HEADS OF STATE EYADEMA AND MURTALA IN LAGOS FOCUSED ON THREE PROBLEMS, ALL MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE: ECOWAS, BENIN-TOGO BORDER, AND ANGOLA.

2. ECOWAS, IN STATEMENT TO PRESS ON HIS RETURN, EYADEMA ASSERTED NIGERIAN AND TOGOLESE EXPERTS WORKING ON ANNEXES TO ECOWAS TREATY WERE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AND THAT A MEETING OF ECOWAS HEADS OF STATE
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COULD TAKE PLACE IN APRIL OR MAY TO RATIFY THEM. HE NOTED SOME STATES

WERE WAITING TO SEE ANNEXES TO ECOWAS TREATY BEFORE SIGNING. IN EFFECT, TOGO'S AND NIGERIA'S JOINT RESPONSIBILITY TO PREPAR ANNEXES SERVED AS EXCUSE FOR A MEETING WHOSE BASIC PURPOSE WAS TO POLISH TOGOLESE-NIGERIAN RELATIONS. UNDOUBTEDLY, FUTURE SITE OF ECOWAS HEAD-QUARTERS WAS ALSO SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS.

3. TOGO-BENIN BORDER. COMMUNIQUE SHED NO NEW LIGHT. IN TOGO PRO-LONGED BORDER CLOSURE IS PERCEIVED AS ANNOYANCE, BUT NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM, OR THREAT.

4. ANGOLA. COMMUNIQUE'S STRONG CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF IT AS "AGRESSION SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM" IS ANOTHER SIGN (REFTEL) THAT TOGO IS UNCOMFORTABLE IN ITS OFFICIAL POSITION OF NEUTRALITY BETWEEN ANGOLAN MOVEMENTS. IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION OF MPLA IS PROBABLY NOT IN CARDS. BUT TOGO UNDOUBTEDLY AFRAID OF BEING LEFT BEHIND AND MAY JUMP IF PRO-MPLA SENTIMENT AMONG AFRICANS CONTINUES TO GATHER STRENGTH. GOT, FOR EXAMPLE, COUNTS ITS DE-RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL JUST BEFORE OCTOBER 2-4 AND BEFORE MAJORITY OF AFRICANS AS A DIPLOMATIC COUP. IN ANY CASE, TOGOLESE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR LACK OF SUPPORT FOR MPLA IS NOT CONSIDERED AS TOLERANCE OF INTERVENTIONS BY MPLA'S ENEMIES, THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND THE U.S. EMBASSY WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY PUBLIC TOGOLESE DENUNCIATION OF U.S. (ALONG WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AND SOVIET) INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA, SINCE SUCH A MOVE COULD BE SEEN BY GOT AS USEFULLY CLARIFYING ITS POSITION.
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